

The Linacre Quarterly

Volume 57 | Number 2

Article 2

May 1990

President's Page

Joseph A. Lucci

Follow this and additional works at: <http://epublications.marquette.edu/lnq>

Recommended Citation

Lucci, Joseph A. (1990) "President's Page," *The Linacre Quarterly*: Vol. 57: No. 2, Article 2.
Available at: <http://epublications.marquette.edu/lnq/vol57/iss2/2>

President's Page



Fetal Experimentation: Prologue to "Yes, It Can Happen Here"

There is a lot of publicity being given for the promising research currently underway in the area of fetal experimentation for scientific and medical benefits. In a recent article entitled, "Ideological Entanglement Strangling Health Research", Daniel S. Greenberg defended fetal experimentation and the use of transplantation of fetal tissues from induced abortions because of "promising research for Parkinson's and other serious diseases".

In another article, titled "Creating an Heir and Spare Parts", Ellen Goodman refers to the recent story of Abe and Mary Ayala, who did not plan to have another child until their 17-year old daughter, Anissa, came down with leukemia. This life-threatening disease sometimes can be cured with a bone marrow transplant; however, in most cases, a compatible donor is usually that of a sibling. After a futile search for such a donor, the Ayalas decided to "create" a child, taking a one in four chance that it would be compatible. It appears we now have a new indication to have a child!

John Powell, S.J. in his powerful booklet, "Abortion, the Silent Holocaust" points out that in the early days of Hitler in Germany, there was liberalization of the abortion laws, and considerable experimentation on those people docketed for death (i.e., handicapped, terminally ill). Although these experiments were done on adults, and fetal experimentation these days is done on aborted fetuses (some still alive!), are we in America not doing the same thing and setting the stage for a catastrophe

similar to the death camps of Dachau? Are abortion and fetal experimentation not a similar Holocaust, though silent, because these unborn cannot speak? Are the abortion of 1.5 million unborn, and fetal experimentation morally or legally justified because they may lead to some good with "promising research for Parkinson's and other serious diseases"?

Should we not proclaim, as in the writings of John Powell, "Never Again . . . Yes, Again!" This sort of thing gives rise to the historical questions of, "Did this ever happen before and what did it lead to?"

With these events in the news, it might be well to emphasize quotations which reflect the opposition to fetal experimentation, i.e., that the unborn child has a right to life, that fetal experimentation is intrinsically wrong and could never be justified because of some good that might result from it.

The greatest gift of God,
I would think,
is the gift of life.

The greatest sin of humans,
it would seem,
would be to return that gift
ungratefully and unopened.

No man is an island . . . Any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind; and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee.

— John Donne

Also, Dr. Leon R. Kass, Professor of the Liberal Arts of Human Biology, University of Chicago, points out:

" . . . With the powers of biological engineering now gathering there will be splendid new opportunities for a similar degradation in our view of man. Indeed, we are already witnessing the erosion of our idea of man as something splendid or divine, as a creature with freedom and dignity. And clearly, if we come to see ourselves as meat, then meat we shall become."

And last, but not least, in the words of Mother Teresa of Calcutta:

"To me, the nations with legalized abortions are the poorest nations. The great destroyer of peace today, is the crime against the innocent unborn child

In destroying the child, we were destroying the image of God in the world."

Fetal experimentation is no different than adult experimentation and must be stopped, else it may lead to a similar result, with "the Nazi nightmare occurring in the American Dream".

Fetal Experimentation Bibliography and Recommended Reading

1. Greenberg, D.S., "Ideological Entanglement Strangling Health Research", *The Houston Post*, Nov. 15, 1989.
2. Goodman, E: "Creating an Heir and Spare Parts", *The Houston Post*, Feb. 25, 1990.

3. Powell, J., "Abortion, The Silent Holocaust", Angus Communications, One DLM Park, Allen, Texas.
 4. "The Position of Modern Science on the Beginning of Human Life and Why a Human Embryo or Fetus is Not a Parasite" *Scientists for Life, Inc.*, 1975, 1983; Sun Life, Greyston, Thaxton, Virginia 24174.
 5. Rini, S. M., "Beyond Abortion - A Chronicle of Fetal Experimentation" Magnificat Press, Avon-by-the-Sea, P. O. Box 365, NJ 07717.
 6. Benard, J., "The End Justifies the Means", "The Means are Necessarily Unethical and Ethically Necessary", "How Life Aborted Fetuses are Obtained for Research" (Hysterectomy, Protein F₂ Alpha - Upjohn). Magnificat Press, Avon-by-the-Sea, P. O. Box 365, NJ 07717.
 7. DeMarco, D., "In My Mother's Womb - The Catholic Church's Defense of Natural Life", Trinity Communications, 1987.
 8. Saltenberger, A., "Every Woman has a Right to Know the Dangers of Legal Abortion", Air-Plus Enterprises, P. O. Box 367, Glassboro, NJ 08028.
 9. Reardon, D. C., "Aborted Women, Silent No More" Crossway Books, Westchester, Illinois. Division of Good News Publishers, 9825 W. Roosevelt Rd., Westchester, IL 60153 and Loyola University Press, 3441 N. Ashland Ave., Chicago, IL 60657.
-